NOTES IN THE PROVINCES.

It is in contemplation to erect a bridge over the Mersey at Runcorn. Some idea of its magnitude may be formed when we state that there are to be five wet arches of 280 feet span, 100 feet above high water mark at spring tides, and 168 dry arches of 30 feet span, and 51 feet high, making a total of 2,480 yards of arching. When completed, it will be the greatest work of the kind in Europe.——At the same place, Lord Francis Egerton is about to erect docks of great extent, also a custom-house, the present edifice being found most inconvenient for this thriving port.——A subscription has been set afloat for the purpose of re-pewing and effecting other improvements in St. Michael's church, Coventry. The required outlay is estimated at 5,000*l.*——The works at the two new churches at Morton and Stockwith, near Gainsbro', are rapidly advancing; the roofs have been reared some time, and are nearly slated. The wood-work for the interior is in a state of forwardness, under the superintendence of the contractor, Mr. Wood, of Doncaster.——The Commercial Bank, and the new branch of the Bank of England in Castle-street, Liverpool, are both to be built of stone, brought from the Darley Dale Quarries, Derbyshire, from which also was procured the stone used in the erection of the Liverpool Assize Courts.——In Ireland, a decision has been at length come to with respect to the rival claims of Armagh and Belfast, for the site of the Northern College. The latter town has won the prize.——It is in contemplation, in the ensuing spring, to effect several improvements in the fine minster church at Wimborne; a substantial edifice is also to be erected for the endowed free school, in room of the present dilapidated building.——Within the last fifteen years upon the property of the Marquis of Bath alone in Wiltshire no less than seven churches have been either rebuilt or newly founded, and nine schoolhouses erected, involving together an outlay of nearly 30,000*l.*—— St. Mary's Episcopal chapel, at Dalkeith, was consecrated last week. It is a Gothic building, and a local paper says, that "no expense has been spared in its decoration, so as to render it suitable, in every respect, for the reception of her Majesty should she again be a visitor at Dalkeith palace.——Some new cells have lately been erected contiguous to the Ipswich station-house. They are built on the humane principle, sanctioned by the Inspector of Prisons, which is, that in constructing a place of confinement, due regard should be paid to the health of the accused, as well as to his security. They are dry, warm, and well-ventilated.——A plan for the extension of Folkestone by the erection of a considerable number of houses on Lord Radnor's land, was submitted, a few evenings since, to a public meeting of the town's-people, called by the mayor, G. Robins, Esq. The scheme, as explained by the originator, is on the principle of a building society, by the operation of which each member will, in succession, become possessed of a residence in eleven years.——A public meeting was held last week at Ely, having for its object the erection of a Corn Exchange there. The market hill will most probably be selected for the site, in which case an unsightly patch of old houses will have to be pulled down. The estimated expense is 6,500*l.*——The London and Birmingham Railway Company have publicly contradicted a report that they had altered their views with respect to the central station, which they propose to make near New-street, Birmingham. They further state that the proposal has received the sanction of the commissioners and governors of the Free school.——The members of the Royal Southern Yacht Club are about to erect at Cowes a new Clubhouse, at a cost of 6,000*l.* The foundation-stone will be laid in a short time by the commodore, the Marquis of Conyngham.——Mr. Peto is preparing plans for the improvement of Lowestoft harbour, and there is a prospect before long of sea-borne vessels reaching Beccles through Lowestoft, its natural port.—— The extensive iron-works now in course of erection at Oakley, Fifeshire, are deserving of notice. The engine-house is built of stone from the new Carnock quarry, and is 40 feet below and 50 feet above the surface ground. There will be three or four windows in each front about 30 feet in height, each window being arched and ornamented with a moulding; and the whole building surmounted with a very rich coping. The lever wall, which runs across the building from the foundation to the top, is 90 feet, and about six feet in thickness. It is built of polished stones of enormous size, each block being three tons in weight. So extensive is the building, that in it there are deposited 60,000 cubic feet of stones below the surface of the ground. The next most conspicuous objects are the furnaces, two of which are far advanced, the chimney-stalks being each about 180 feet in height.—— Mr. Sotheron, the proprietor of Derizes green, is about to inclose the same, not with the view of excluding the public, but in order to make it more available and more useful to those who may be inclined to resort to it for air and exercise. New walks and ornamental plantations will be introduced to as great an extent as is compatible with its use as the fairstead.——The ceremony of consecrating a portion of the Edinburgh Cemetery Company's grounds, together with the little Gothic chapel erected thereon, near Inverleithrow, took place on Saturday last.——A syndicate is about to be appointed at Cambridge for the purpose of ascertaining in what manner a tax may most conveniently be laid on the members of the university with the view of forming a new botanical garden. Already several suggestions have been made, having for their object such architectural improvement of the town as the projected change will admit of.——The Committee of the Dock Trust, at Liverpool, purpose applying to Parliament next session for power to construct several large new docks on an extensive site, at present principally covered with buildings. The premises to be purchased number 643.

MR. BASEVI'S SUCCESSOR AT THE FITZWILLIAM MUSEUM, CAMBRIDGE.

The Fitzwilliam Syndicate conceiving that the great loss which the university had suffered by the lamented death of Mr. Basevi, the architect of the New Fitzwilliam Museum, made it proper for them to offer to the Senate a report describing the state in which the designs for the building are left; and to bring under the notice of the Senate the state of the engagements made with the contractors for the execution of the work, wrote as follows:—

The Syndicate find by an examination of the drawings left by Mr. Basevi (which have been sent for their inspection by his brother, Mr. N. Basevi) that the designs for the greater part of the work remaining to be executed are in a forward state; but they conceive that these designs not having been perfected, require, for the completion of the work, the assistance of an architect of the same order as Mr. Basevi in professional eminence and skill.

The Syndicate think it highly desirable that the building should be completed with a close adherence to Mr. Basevi's intentions, so far as they appear in a settled form in his designs.

The Syndicate have also ascertained by inquiry of Mr. N. Basevi and of Mr. Baker, the state of the pending engagements with Mr. Baker; and the results of this inquiry will be laid upon the Registrar's table.

The Syndicate, considering the high professional character of Mr. Cockerell, and the confidence already reposed in him by the University, beg leave to recommend that Mr. Cockerell be appointed Mr. Basevi's successor as architect of the New Fitzwilliam Museum, with instructions to adhere as closely as may be to Mr. Basevi's designs in carrying on the work to its completion.

St. John's College Lodge, Dec. 9, 1845.

There was a congregation on Monday, when a grace was offered to appoint Mr. Cockerell to be the late Mr. Basevi's successor as architect to the New Fitzwilliam Museum, in conformity with the recommendation of the Fitzwilliam Syndicate in the above report.

The Skew Arch an Old Invention.—"Now visit the Alcazar [Cathedral at Seville], but first observe a singular Moorish skew arch, in a narrow street leading [from the Cathedral] to the Puerta de Xerez; it proves that the Moors practised this now assumed modern invention at least eight centuries ago."—*Ford's Spain.*

RESTORATION OF THE HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, HULL.

The restoration of the interior of the nave of this venerable and interesting structure is now completed. From the *Hull Packet* we learn that the galleries have, with all the modern pews upon the ground floor, been taken away; the entire area of the nave cleared of every thing; and the stone-coloured paint removed from the lofty piers, their capitals, and arches. Upon entering the great western door, we find ourselves apparently in a comfortable porch, but in reality passing through the great organ, which has been constructed upon a grand scale by Messrs. Foster and Andrews, of this town, after an elegant design by Mr. Lockwood: representing to the eye, looking west, the appearance of a handsome gothic screen. The whole of the nave is now fitted up with oak stalls, enriched with poppy heads, carved by Mr. George Peck, of Hull. Most of them are executed from casts of existing models in Lincoln Cathedral, taken by Mr. Keyworth, sculptor, the Yorkshire Architectural Society's modeller. For some distance eastward from the font, the seats, or stalls, run transverse; so that the standards of solid oak (no other timber having been permitted to be used in the work), with carved "poppy heads," shut upon the aisles. About half way, however, to the arch which separates the nave from the transepts, a change takes place, and a change for the better it certainly is; here the church assumes the aspect of a cathedral choir, the stalls being arranged parallel to the aisle, and the standards and poppy heads meeting the eye to the greatest advantage. A portion of this part of the church has been fitted up with separate stalls, which the churchwardens, it is presumed, will carefully allot. Adjoining these stalls, to the eastward, are smaller ones, on either side, for the singing men and choristers of the church; these abut upon the pulpit and the lectern, which form the most conspicuous objects in the nave. The pulpit, which is of stone, is fixed, adjoining the third pillar on the south side of the nave. It is designed in perfect keeping with the style of the nave, and is highly enriched with a series of niches, which are, we understand, to be decorated with crimson and azure and gold. It is ascended by a winding staircase of stone, composed of fourteen steps. The reading desk is of oak; it occupies a position against the third pillar on the north side of the centre aisle of the nave. The front is composed of an oak screen of Gothic tracery, open, and supported by buttresses of the same; behind are three stalls for the officiating clergy. From this point to the tower the stalls continue to be placed as in a minster choir, the front towards the aisle being handsomely, though neatly decorated.

It is not, we find, at present the intention to pave the middle and side aisles with encaustic tiles, as was first intended; want of funds, we believe, is pleaded for this omission. The font, which is of Purbeck marble, and highly enriched, has been thoroughly cleansed of the many coats of stone-coloured paint which, up to a recent period, covered its sculptured ornaments, and it now occupies its proper position, near to the western door. We are sorry to find that it has not been restored in its original manner, for some reason or another that we cannot account. The eight small pillars that stood originally round the centre shaft of it have been omitted. We trust that the proper authorities will see to this matter, and not allow its ancient features to be altered.

The panels of the ceiling have been painted with ultra marine, whilst the members of the beams are "picked out" in colours, crimson and gold. The centre of the panels is studded with gold stars. In different parts of the roof are painted illustrations of the instruments of our Lord's passion, with monograms, &c. Some of the richly-carved capitals of the columns of the nave are decorated with crimson and blue and gold. The whole of the embellishments of the ceiling, &c., were done by Messrs. Binks and Son, of Hull, after the designs and under the superintendence of Mr. Lockwood, architect, to whose care was entrusted the entire restoration.

The cost which has at present been incurred is about 3,000*l.*, of which sum the churchwardens have taken upon themselves the re-

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